

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Textile sector establishments come under the purview of State Government. According to the provisions contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Government shall review/revise at such intervals not exceeding five years for scheduled employments under its jurisdiction. In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government mooted the idea of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) in terms of recommendation of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1988. So far, the Central Government and 27 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted VDA as a component of minimum wage and revise twice a year or annually taking in to account the rise in Consumer Price Indices.

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Textile sector establishment comes under the purview of State Government. The minimum wages fixed by the appropriate Government are equally payable both to male and female workers and the Act does not discriminate on the basis of gender.

Women employment

1076. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recent records of percentage of women employment in the country in formal as well as informal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to reimburse employers for maternity leave in the private sector to encourage overall women employment; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and its expected time of launch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the recent report on employment-unemployment surveys in 2015-16 conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the findings are as given below:—

For Female aged 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country (in %)

	Labour Force Participation Rate	Worker Population Ratio
Rural	31.7	30.2
Urban	16.6	14.8
Rural+Urban	27.4	25.8

As per the NSSO survey results, the category-industry sector-wise distribution of workers including women during 2011-12 is given below:—

Worker	Industry Sector (in %)		
	Unorganized	Organised	Total
Informal	82.6	9.8	92.4
Formal	0.4	7.2	7.6
TOTAL	83.0	17.0	100.0

(c) and (d) Government is working on an incentive scheme for entities that provide 26 weeks maternity benefits to their woman employees as provided for in the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017. To enable an entity to avail of the incentive, the women employees working in their entity should be a wage earner of less than ₹15000/- per month and a contributing member of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for at least one year and not covered by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The scheme is proposed to be administered through Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and shall be implemented after obtaining the approval of the competent authorities.

Subsidy and other benefits to MSMEs

1077. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy and other benefits to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implements Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme and 2% Interest Subvention Scheme to provide margin money, credit linked subsidy and interest subsidy respectively to set up new units, to facilitate access to modern technology and concessional working capital or term loan. The Ministry also provides other benefits such as collateral free credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing facilities through other schemes such as Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme and Marketing Development Assistance Scheme respectively.